

REMARKS

Now pending in the application are claims 1-13, of which claims 1, 8 and 9 are independent. The following comments address all stated issues and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

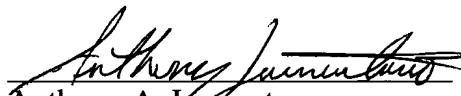
Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-13 are *provisionally* rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of copending application No. 10/000,460. Since the rejection is provisional, Applicants will respond to the rejection if the rejection is made actual or the claims of the pending application are otherwise allowable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants contend that claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues, an opportunity for an interview is requested prior to the issuance of another Office Action. If the above amendments are not deemed to place this case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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